

## Amendment to the Claims

The status of the claims is as follows:

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1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) Electrically heatable glow plug or glow rod for internal combustion engines, having a corrosion-resistant glow pipe which is closed at the end and contains a filling of electrically non-conductive, compacted powder in which an electrically conductive coil is embedded, wherein the electrically conductive coil is surface-hardened.

6. (Previously presented) Glow plug or glow rod according to Claim 5, wherein at least a heating coil is surface-hardened.

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7. (Previously presented) Glow plug or glow rod according to Claim 5, wherein the electrically conductive coil (8, 9) is surface-hardened, at least over part of the longitudinal extent, by a diffusion treatment.

8. (Previously presented) Glow plug or glow rod according to Claim 7, wherein a hard diffusion zone of the electrically conductive coil has a depth of approximately 5 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

9. (Previously presented) Glow plug or glow rod according to Claim 7, wherein the diffusion treatment is nitriding.

10. (Previously presented) An electrically heatable heater for internal combustion engines, comprising:

a corrosion-resistant glow pipe which is closed at an end,  
electrically non-conductive, compacted powder filling contained within the glow pipe, and

an electrically conductive coil which is embedded within the filling,  
wherein at least a portion of the electrically conductive coil is surface-hardened.

11. (Previously presented) A electrically heatable heater according to Claim 10, wherein the surface-hardened portion is at least a heating coil.

12. (Previously presented) An electrically heatable heater according to Claim 11, wherein the surface hardening is by way of a diffusion treatment.

13. (Previously presented) An electrically conductive coil for a glow plug or glow rod in an internal combustion engine having a corrosion-resistant glow pipe closed at one end and containing a filling of electrically non-conductive, compacted powder, the conductive coil is operatively embedded in said filling and surface-hardened.

14. (Previously presented) A method of making an electrically heatable glow plug or glow rod for an internal combustion engine, comprising:

surface-hardening at least a portion of an electrically conductive coil,

positioning the conductive coil in a corrosion-resistant glow pipe,

embedding the conductive coil in an electrically non-conductive powder filling within the glow pipe,

compacting said powder filling, and

closing an end of the glow pipe.

15. (Previously presented) A method of making an electrically heatable glow plug or glow rod for an internal combustion engine comprising surface-hardening at least a portion of an electrically conductive coil.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 15, wherein the conductive coil is operatively embedded in an electrically non-conductive compacted powder filling within a glow pipe.

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